

COALITION OF CONNECTICUT SPORTSMEN

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Testimony presented to the JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

IN OPPOSITION to S.B. No. 1096 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE CRIMINAL POSSESSION AND SEIZURE OF FIREARM AMMUNITION.

by Robert T. Crook, Director

03/24/11

Statement of Purpose: To provide that a person prohibited from possessing a firearm is also prohibited from possessing ammunition and to authorize the seizure of ammunition whenever a court finds probable cause that a person poses a risk of personal injury to himself or herself or others and issues a warrant authorizing the seizure of a firearm or firearms.

Confiscating ammunition when firearms are removed makes no sense – ammunition is not a danger to society when there is no firearm to shoot it.

We are particularly concerned with protective or restraining orders and Sec. 29-38c: Seizure of firearms of person posing risk of imminent personal injury to self or others. ["Turn in Your Neighbor"], where no conviction has been made.

This bill would prohibit reloaders or sellers of ammunition from conducting business or hobby activity based on a restraining or protective order which is a court administrative action, NOT a crime.

Are we now going to arrest and incarcerate for mere possession of thousands or a single bullet? Again, what good are bullets without a firearm?

A class D felony imposed for a non-menacing object is asinine and extreme to say the least.

There is also a cost to the State for this bill if passed, including State/Local Police manpower to accept received property, logging, Chain of custody, and Storage. If the ammunition is not retrieved by the owner, what is the procedure for disposal?

Finally, has there been any problem with person prohibited from possessing a firearm inappropriately using (?) ammunition? Or is this just one more "feel good" anti-gun legislation which will only impact legitimate gun owners with NO effect on criminal activity?

We strongly urge rejection as useless legislation.